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WEI TE CHUNG
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EXAMINER

TRUONG, CAM Y T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 11/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/925,126

Applicant(s)

LUH, YIH-PING

Examiner

Cam-Y T Truong

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,2 and 7 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-7 are pending in this Office Action.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-2 are drawn to a transaction between an information provider and a customer via email, which is classified in class 709, subclass 206.
 - II. Claims 3-6 are drawn to accessing information in servers using server tools via Internet system, which is classified in class 709, subclass 217.
 - III. Claim 7 is drawn to decomposing a database, which is classified in class 707, subclass 200.
3. Inventions I, II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, in invention I can be used in updating original information after receiving information provider through email. In invention II can be used in allowing users to access stored information in a server by using server tools on Internet system. In invention III can be used allowing the customer to accessibly modify and/or update database partitions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Art Unit: 2172

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Wei Te Chung on 10/16/03 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group II, claims 3-6. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 1-2 and 7 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ciarlante et al (or hereinafter "Ciarlante") (USP 6594819).

As to claim 3, Ciarlante teaches the claimed limitations:

"an information server controlled by the information provider" as a technical profile, which is used by the host to determine which hosting servers, may be used. This information shows the host controls the hosting servers. The host is represented as the information provider (col. 4, lines 19-21);

Art Unit: 2172

“an original information box extracted from the information server” as during use of the application instance, the host system tracks use of the application for billing and accounting purpose. The DIH host system uses tools for tracking users. The first is registration tables in the DIH relational database, which store account Ids that represent each user in each instance and username/e-mail pairs that uniquely identify each user. A second is a cascaded Public Address Book, which stores user records for each person with instances on each hosting server. The above information shows that when tracking a user, the host has to select a cascaded Public Address Book from a particular server and then retrieve the particular server cascaded Public Address Book for tracking users. A cascaded Public Address Book is represented as an original information box (col. 10, lines 1-13);

“a tool server installed with a plurality of tools by an application service provider” as the hosting system, such as an Internet Service Provider or ISP, contains a number of components distributed over multiple servers. The host system contains a database storing the application kits. These applications are hosted in one of any number of dedicated host servers 16 contained in the hosting system 10. This information shows that a server is installed with a plurality of the application kits by ISP. A plurality of the application kits can be represented as a plurality of tools (col. 3, lines 53-64) “and providing tools when instructed by the application service provider” as when a service provider is ready to offer an application to customers, he or she creates an application syndicate in the warehouse. A syndicate is an offer of an application, including rental terms and pricing. Each syndicate has a different set of materials, allowing the service provider to offer different pricing structures to different customers. Once a syndicate has

Art Unit: 2172

been created, the service provider publishes it to a storefront to make it available to customers. This information shows that the system provides syndicates of applications to customers when instructed by the service provider. Syndicates of an application can be represented as tools (col. 6, lines 60-67).

Ciarlante does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation "and a tool-added information box being resulted by packing the original information box with tools of the tool server and sent to the customer for the customer to access the data contained in the tool-added information box". However, Ciarlante teaches as during use of the application instance, the host system tracks use of the application for billing and accounting purpose. The DIH host system uses three tools for tracking users. The first is registration tables in the DIH relational database, which store account Ids that represent each user in each instance and username/e-mail pairs that uniquely identify each user. A second is a cascaded Public Address Book, which stores user records for each person with instances on each hosting server. A third is the Public Address Book, which stores groups for each instance. An instance, which is represented as a tool-added information box, is sent to users to access data such as account or user records (col. 10, lines 5-10). The above information shows that the application instance is a result from contains a cascaded Public Address Book by packing DIH relational database and Public Address Book via the DIH host system. In this case, the second tool, a cascaded Public Address Book, can be an original information box. Packing DIH relational database and Public Address Book are represented as tools. The DIH host system is represented as a tool server. A instance is represented as a tool-added information box (col. 10, lines 5-17).

Art Unit: 2172

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Ciarlante's teaching of the host system tracks use of the application for billing and accounting purpose. The DIH host system uses three tools for tracking users. The first is registration tables in the DIH relational database, which store account Ids that represent each user in each instance and username/e-mail pairs that uniquely identify each user. A second is a cascaded Public Address Book, which stores user records for each person with instances on each hosting server. A third is the Public Address Book, which stores groups for each instance. An instance is sent to users to access data such as account or user records in order to allow any user can access any instance from different sites via Internet system.

As to claim 4, Ciarlante teaches the claimed limitation "a transacted information box which is resulted from the tool-added information box accessed and modified by the customer and sent from the customer back to the information server for updating the information server" as updating data in DIHUsers databases on the Hosting servers (col. 6, lines 20-25).

As to claim 5, Ciarlante teaches the claimed limitations:

"an information server which is controlled by the information provider" as the host use a technical profile to determine which hosting servers may be used. This information indicates that the host controls the hosting servers. The host is represented as the information provider (col. 4, lines 19-20);

Art Unit: 2172

“an original information box selectively extracted from the information server by the information provider” as during use of the application instance, the host system tracks use of the application for billing and accounting purpose. The DIH host system uses tools for tracking users. The first is registration tables in the DIH relational database, which store account Ids that represent each user in each instance and username/e-mail pairs that uniquely identify each user. A second is a cascaded Public Address Book, which stores user records for each person with instances on each hosting server. The above information shows that when tracking a user, the host has to select a cascaded Public Address Book from a particular server and then retrieve the particular server cascaded Public Address Book for tracking users. A cascaded Public Address Book is represented as an original information box (col. 10, lines 1-13);

“a tool server providing tools for accessing information stored in the original information box” as the Registry server, which writes to the registration tables in the Domino Instant! Host relational database and also calls the Directory server to update the data in the DIHUsers databases on the Hosting servers. Each DIHUsers database is a cascaded Public Address Book that contains personal documents for all users. The directory server makes changes to the Public Address Books such as adding person documents or changing group entries. This information shows that directory server has provided tools for updating data in a cascaded Public Address Book. A cascaded Public Address Book is represented as the original information box (col. 6, lines 19-22; col. 5, lines 24-32);

“a web server for storing the tool-added information box” a web server stores web pages containing offerings. Users of client 8 make selections of groupware

Art Unit: 2172

applications through the offerings in the storefront 14. Each groupware application has an instance. Thus, the instance, which is represented as the tool-added information box, is stored in a web server too. The instance is presented as the too-added information box (col. 3, lines 59-62, col. 4, line 55) and “allowing customers to access the tool-added information box after payment” as any user has to pay for accessing an instance (col. 10, line 19).

Ciarlante does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation “a tool-added information box resulted from the original information box by packing tools therein via the tool server”. However, Ciarlante teaches that during use of the application instance, the host system tracks use of the application for billing and accounting purpose. The DIH host system uses three tools for tracking users. The first is registration tables in the DIH relational database, which store account Ids that represent each user in each instance and username/e-mail pairs that uniquely identify each user. A second is a cascaded Public Address Book, which stores user records for each person with instances on each hosting server. A third is the Public Address Book, which stores groups for each instance. The above information shows that the application instance is a result from contains a cascaded Public Address Book by packing DIH relational database and Public Address Book via the DIH host system. In this case, the second tool, a cascaded Public Address Book, can be an original information box. Packing DIH relational database and Public Address Book are represented as tools. The DIH host system is represented as a tool server. A instance is represented as a tool-added information box (col. 10, lines 5-17).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Ciarlante’s teaching the host system tracks use of the

Art Unit: 2172

application for billing and accounting purpose. The DIH host system uses three tools for tracking users. The first is registration tables in the DIH relational database, which store account Ids that represent each user in each instance and username/e-mail pairs that uniquely identify each user. A second is a cascaded Public Address Book, which stores user records for each person with instances on each hosting server. A third is the Public Address Book, which stores groups for each instance in order to allow any user can access any instance from different sites via Internet system.

As to claim 6, Ciarlante teaches the claimed limitations:

“an information server which is controlled by an original information provider” as a technical profile which is used by the host to determine which hosting servers may be used. This information shows the host controls the hosting servers. The host is represented as the information provider (col. 4, lines 19-21);

“ an original information box selectively extracted from the information server by the original information provider” as during use of the application instance, the host system tracks use of the application for billing and accounting purpose. The DIH host system uses tools for tracking users. The first is registration tables in the DIH relational database, which store account Ids that represent each user in each instance and username/e-mail pairs that uniquely identify each user. A second is a cascaded Public Address Book, which stores user records for each person with instances on each hosting server. The above information shows that when tracking a user, the host has to select a cascaded Public Address Book from a particular server and then retrieve the particular

Art Unit: 2172

server cascaded Public Address Book for tracking users. A cascaded Public Address Book is represented as a original information box (col. 10, lines 1-13);

“a tool server providing tools for accessing information stored in the original information box” as the Registry server, which writes to the registration tables in the Domino Instant! Host relational database and also calls the Directory server to update the data in the DIHUsers databases on the Hosting servers. Each DIHUsers database is a cascaded Public Address Book that contains personal documents for all users. The directory server makes changes to the Public Address Books such as adding person documents or changing group entries. This information shows that directory server has provided tools for updating data in a cascaded Public Address Book. A cascaded Public Address Book is represented as the original information box (col. 6, lines 19-22; col. 5, lines 24-32);

“a web server for storing the tool-added information box” as a web server stores web pages containing offerings. Users of client 8 make selections of groupware applications through the offerings in the storefront 14. Each groupware application has an instance. Thus, the instance, which is represented as the tool-added information box, is stored in a web server too (col. 3, lines 59-62, col. 4, line 55),” the web server being linked to a portal which is owned by the internet content provider so that customers can access the tool-added information box stored in the web server by visiting the portal” as a web server stores web page which contains offerings. These offerings are published in the storefront 14. Users of client 8 make selections of groupware applications through offerings in the storefront, and the applications are hosted in one of any number of dedicated host server 16 contained in the hosting system 10. Then, the users choose URL

Art Unit: 2172

to identify application instance for accessing an instance. The above information shows that the web server is linked to the storefront, which is owned by the Internet Service Provider so that users can access a stored instance in a server by visiting the storefront. The storefront is presented as the portal (figs. 8-9, col. 3, lines 53-64).

Ciarlante does not explicitly teach the claimed limitation "a tool-added information box resulted from the original information box by packing tools therein via the tool server". However, Ciarlante teaches that during use of the application instance, the host system tracks use of the application for billing and accounting purpose. The DIH host system uses three tools for tracking users. The first is registration tables in the DIH relational database, which store account Ids that represent each user in each instance and username/e-mail pairs that uniquely identify each user. A second is a cascaded Public Address Book, which stores user records for each person with instances on each hosting server. A third is the Public Address Book, which stores groups for each instance. The above information shows that the application instance is a result from contains a cascaded Public Address Book by packing DIH relational database and Public Address Book via the DIH host system. In this case, the second tool, a cascaded Public Address Book, can be an original information box. Packing DIH relational database and Public Address Book are represented as tools. The DIH host system is represented as a tool server. A instance is represented as a tool-added information box (col. 10, lines 5-17).

It would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply Ciarlante's teaching the host system tracks use of the application for billing and accounting purpose. The DIH host system uses three tools for tracking users. The first is registration tables in the DIH relational database, which store

Art Unit: 2172

account Ids that represent each user in each instance and username/e-mail pairs that uniquely identify each user. A second is a cascaded Public Address Book, which stores user records for each person with instances on each hosting server. A third is the Public Address Book, which stores groups for each instance in order to allow any user can access any instance from different sites via Internet system.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure

Herman et al (USP 6341353)

Contact Information


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam-Y Truong whose telephone number is (703-605-1169). The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 8:00AM to 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu, can be reached on (703-305-4393). The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703-308-9051).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-3900).

Cam-Y Truong

10/17/03


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER